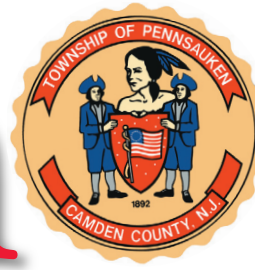


All Around Pennsauken



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See page 11

VOL. 27, NO. 5

A Publication for the Community of Pennsauken

May 2022

Shredding Event Held In Pennsauken On May 14



The Pennsauken Environmental Commission is hosting its annual shredding event at the Park Avenue School Campus, 8201 Park Ave., on Saturday, May 14, from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

This paper-only shredding event is solely for Pennsauken and Merchantville residents, not businesses; those who attend must bring an I.D. Items for shredding should be placed in the rear of the vehicle, such as a trunk, truck bed, or an unoccupied back seat.

Things that can be shredded include anything that has your signature, account number, social security number, etc., as well as any type of medical or legal information; documents can range from bank statements and credit card offers to tax forms and utility bills.

This is not a recycling event; also, items such as hard cover books, magazines, etc. will not be accepted.

These events are extremely well attended; residents are encouraged not to wait until the last minute to attend.

For more information, visit "Pennsauken Township Environmental Commission" on Facebook.

Mayor Talks About Economic Development In Pennsauken



Pennsauken Mayor Jessica Rafeh discussed the town's economic development projects during the Regional Economic Perspective – Camden County breakfast.

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

At the Regional Economic Perspective – Camden County breakfast at the Adventure Aquarium on April 12, Pennsauken Mayor Jessica Rafeh joined several mayors and county officials to discuss economic development projects and how they are impacting their respective communities.

"I'm excited to be able to share with you some of the big things happening in our town," said Mayor Rafeh.

During her presentation, Mayor Rafeh spoke about the many large businesses making significant investments in town.

"Velocity Venture Partners paid \$32 million to acquire the building that until recently was owned by Aluminum Shapes. Overall, Velocity has made significant real estate investments in Pennsauken,"

continued on page 23

Events Honor Those Who Made The Ultimate Sacrifice

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Community events leading up through Memorial Day remember those brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country.

Wreath Laying Ceremonies

Several wreath laying ceremonies in observance of those members of the military who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces will be held throughout Memorial Day Weekend in both Pennsauken and Merchantville. The public is encouraged to attend these events.

On Sunday, May 29, VFW Post 1270, 2324 Penn St., will host a wreath laying

continued on page 29



Later this month, Pennsauken Township officials and local veterans will once again remember those men and women who sacrificed their lives while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

Look! inside

Deadline For Contest Approaching
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Pennsauken Sanitary Landfill:
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(856) 663-0043

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**South Jersey Sanitation
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(856) 225-8800

**Camden County Municipal Utility Authority
(CCMUA):** (856) 541-3700

New Jersey American Water:
(800) 272-1325

Deadline For Best Mom, Dad or Guardian Contest Is May 11

BEST MOM DAD or GUARDIAN CONTEST



www.PennsaukenEvents.com

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

The deadline for Pennsauken children to highlight the special people in their lives through the Best Mom, Dad, or Guardian contest is rapidly approaching.

Children in grades three through eight living in Pennsauken can nominate

their mom, dad, or guardian as the "best in town." Participating students are still required to write a creative letter as part of their nomination, but starting this year, judges are encouraging kids to add a little extra.

By visiting PennsaukenEvents.com, eligible participants can submit one or more of the following:

- A creative letter highlighting the special person in their lives (required)
- A photo of their best mom, dad, or guardian (optional)
- A one-minute video of their best mom, dad, or guardian (optional)

Submissions will be judged based on originality, content, and ability to express feelings. Winners will receive recognition and prizes at the Township Committee meeting on Thursday, May 19, held in

person at 6:00 p.m. at the Township Municipal Building, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd.

The deadline for submissions is Wednesday, May 11. In addition to submitting online, contest entries can be mailed to "Best Mom, Dad or Guardian Contest," Pennsauken Municipal Building, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd., Pennsauken, NJ 08110, Attn. Juan Vazquez. Letters may also be e-mailed to jvazquez@pennsauken.gov.

PHS Alumni Luncheon Held On May 18

The monthly Pennsauken High School Alumni Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, May 18, 1:00 p.m., at Marco's Restaurant at the Pennsauken Country Club, 3800 Haddonfield Rd.

Reservations are required as space is limited. Call Norma at (856) 220-5597 to reserve a space or for any questions.

The ICEMAN Goeth BY GAVIN ROSSNER

PAWS

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MAYOR'S CORNER Being Inspired By Mothers Everywhere



By Jessica Rafah,
Mayor of
Pennsauken
Township

My daughter, Karina, is getting so big, it's amazing to think she was just born two years ago. It is truly a special blessing for me to be a mother. Husan and I tried for 12 years to have a child, before our little miracle came into our lives. We have gone through so much, but our tears of sadness were replaced with ones of joy.

Each and every milestone I get to experience with Karina is so very special, with many more to come. But when you're a new mom, things can be just as stressful as it is exciting. Our children certainly keep us on our toes! We love them with all of our hearts, and we never stop worrying about all of the challenges they'll face in the world.

That's why it's so important to have

the presence of mothers in our lives. My own mom inspires me and has passed on important lessons that I rely on daily to raise my daughter. She and my father sacrificed so much to bring us here to this country so that we could have a better life. I am lucky to have her with me, to ask for advice and guidance, to share in my successes and get some much-needed support when I fall short.

And while many of us adore our mothers, we all know that they are not perfect people. As we grow, the relationships we have with our mothers can be extremely complicated. Even if we butt heads with our moms, that can be important for our own development. Ultimately, we learn from what our mothers do right, as well as from what they do wrong.

So many people in our lives earn the title of mother – not just by giving birth to us, but by being nurturing, caring mentors. When you think about it, there are

so many moms in our lives. They can be related to you by blood or be a part of the family you make for yourself. Whether they are a good friend, a caring co-worker, or a special neighbor, mothers do come in all shapes and sizes, sharing their wisdom and compassion.

One day, Karina may be lucky enough to have a family of her own. I will be there for her, just like my mom is for me. And as she grows into the strong and confident woman that I know she can be, I will continue to give her all of the important tools so that she can be a great mother to her children. After all, I learned from the best.

On behalf of myself and the entire Township Committee, I wish a very Happy Mother's Day to all of the many different types of moms out there. And for those who are dealing with infertility, have hope. Don't give up. You are not alone. My daughter is our miracle; I pray for your miracles as well.

Celebrating The Strength Of Mothers



By Nicole Roberts,
Deputy Mayor of
Pennsauken Township

Growing up in the Homestead section of Pennsauken, our neighbors were more than just the friendly people we lived next to. They were family. In addition to my own mom, I had a LOT of "aunties" on my block, looking after all of the neighborhood kids. They went above and beyond to make sure we

stayed out of trouble. You certainly didn't want an army of "moms" mad at you!

It was this same group of people: my mom and all those "aunties" as well as Mr. Bobby Cream, my dad and my "uncles," who created the Homestead Youth Association, an organization dedicated to providing young people with educational and cultural experiences through recreational activities. Mrs. Gladys Pritchett was the first chairperson on the Home-

continued on page 10

Facebook Live Event With Pennsauken's Mayor, Deputy Mayor Held May 16

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Pennsauken Mayor Jessica Rafah and Deputy Mayor Nicole Roberts will be hosting a Facebook Live Q&A session on Monday, May 16, at 7:00 p.m. Available for viewing on Facebook @ PennsaukenTwp, the two Committee members will provide updates on what's

happening in town, as well as answer questions directly from residents.

"Throughout my time of mayor, I have always said that everyone who lives or works in Pennsauken has a voice and deserves to be heard," said Mayor Rafah. "Our Facebook Live event on

continued on page 10

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WAGSWORLD Fighting To Get A Real Live Person On The Phone

By Bob Wagner,
AAP Columnist

I am prepping for a fight that I fear cannot be won. But knowing that, I am still going to come out swinging. And by telling you my story, I am inviting you all to come along and join me.

Recently, like in the past few weeks, the bride and I discovered a problem with Social Security. As I laid out our tax records for the annual income tax prep, I couldn't get a copy of the bride's payments. Promises to send duplicate copies did not come as guaranteed, so I tried to find an answer, by phone and in person.

It is near impossible.

I waited 42 minutes on hold, 'til my phone battery died. After switching phones, I waited 55 minutes for help. Constant messages urged me to use my computer, but that's where the promises to send copies had come from. Short story answer, fraud has taken place, accounts have been altered, and someone will be in touch soon to let us know what is being done. Two weeks in, a form letter comes from Social Security telling us that our records have been returned to the original status, but that it might take a few months to reinstate payments.

Here is the rub. What is making me

nuts is the inability to get anyone on a phone or in person to talk to. Not just Social Security. They just pushed me over the edge. Try a few other government agencies, like Motor Vehicle. Then try the County Court System. "All our representatives are currently busy helping others. We are having an unusual high volume of requests at this time. Leave a message and someone will get back to you in anywhere from 24 to a whopping 72 hours."

In a business situation, I can vote with my feet, and try elsewhere. But in a government business, my hands are tied. Not my purse strings, as I still have to pay for

the lack of service.

But I can't force change without an act of Congress. This year, with everyone running for major offices, I am making my case. All I want is for a candidate to make a phone call for service; not have their secretary call, then put them on the line. By calling in person, I would love to sit beside a governor, senator, or county commissioner for over half an hour of wasted time, waiting for anyone to answer the phone. Then, half the time in, that person says, "I have to transfer your call," and the party line says the phone is busy, so leave a message and you will get a call back. Sometime, maybe!

I have heard from a whole bunch of folks who have suffered the same fate. Why are we taking it lying down?

Join me in a little experiment if you will. Ask a candidate for office to try to make that call. Maybe if enough voters urge candidates to action, we can once again speak to a person, not a computer. We would have a name and an extension to follow up on. Someone would be accountable.

I promise to follow up with a report on Social Security and any new calls. Wish me luck!

Taste Of Pennsauken/Merchantville Returns May 23

The Taste of Pennsauken/Merchantville is back! Help support the Woman's Club of Merchantville on Monday, May 23, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., at the Pennsauken Country Club, 3800 Haddonfield Rd. Tickets are \$20 and attendees will have an opportunity to sample some of this area's finest cuisine.

Many of the restaurants are returning, including Marco's, H & H Deli, 45th Street Pub, Montegrillo Cucina Italiana, Penn Queen Diner, and Avocado Fiesta; we are also welcoming some new restaurants to event!

In the past, over 100 people have attended the Taste of Pennsauken/Mer-

chantville, giving restaurants the opportunity to promote their business and support the community.

For more information, to register your restaurant or catering business, sponsor a table for \$40, or order tickets, contact Jan at (609) 410-4650 or janwh@aol.com. Proceeds benefit local scholarships and charities.

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PENNSAUKEN MAY PUBLIC MEETINGS

Township Committee (In Person)
6:00 p.m. Thurs., May 19

Zoning Board of Adjustment (Virtual)
7:00 p.m. Wed., May 4, 11 and 18

Planning Board (In Person)
6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 3 and 24

Environmental Commission (Virtual)
7:00 p.m. Monday, May 16

In-person public meetings are held on the second floor of the Pennsauken Municipal Building 5605 N. Crescent Blvd. (At the corner of Rt. 130 and Merchantville Ave.)

Zoom information for Zoning Board Meetings can be found at pennsauken.gov.

To learn more about virtual participation in the Environmental Commission Meeting, visit <https://www.facebook.com/PennsaukenEnviroComm>.

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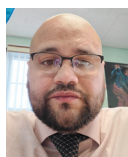
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Meet The New Parks And Recreation Coordinator

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

With the arrival of warmer weather, the programs and events put together by Pennsauken Township's Parks and Recreation Department come into the spotlight.



Vazquez

Juan Vazquez, the new coordinator of the department, is excited to create special moments for residents.

"I love getting more involved with the community, creating events that build memories and traditions for our neighbors," explained Vazquez. "My work allows families to enjoy our playgrounds, grow our sports programs, and create unique events with other Township de-

partments that bring our neighbors together.

"A great example of this was during our spring clean-up," added Vazquez. "We saw kids who never met each other working with one another to remove trash from our great outdoor spaces and then exchanging phone numbers. Not only did they want to volunteer to help their community, but they're also building connections. It's really special."

Vazquez is hard at work, getting ready for the start of summer programs, the opening of the Municipal Pool for the 2022 season, and the Township's Memorial Day Celebration. There are also two big events coming up next month. The Township's Summer Kick Off will be

held on Saturday, June 11, 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Pennsauken Community Recreation Complex on Westfield Ave., and will feature a carnival theme, DJ, food trucks, and a great fireworks display. In addition, the revival of Senior Appreciation Day will happen on June 9, noon to 4:00 p.m., at the Municipal Pool.

"We've got some amazing things com-

ing up," said Vazquez. "We hope that Pennsauken comes out and takes advantage of the events and programs we have planned."

Save The Date: Upcoming Public Events

- Registration For Municipal Pool and Summer Programs: May 9 (see page 6 for details)

- Memorial Day Celebration: May 29 (see front cover for details)
- Senior Appreciation Day: June 9, noon to 4:00 p.m., Pennsauken Municipal Pool
- Summer Kick Off: June 11, 5:00 to 9:00 p.m., Pennsauken Community Recreation Complex on Westfield Ave.

An Important Message About Swimming Pools

With the warmer weather, many look to cool off by buying a pool from a specialty store or retailer. Pennsauken's Building Department wishes to remind residents that any pools—including storable ones—that hold a depth of 24 inches of water require a building permit.

Handouts highlighting the specific requirements, as well as permits, can be

obtained at the Township Municipal Building, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd., in the Building Department office.

Pennsauken wants to make sure that when you hit the water, you do so safely. For the requirements needed before purchasing a pool (setbacks, fencing, etc.), contact the Zoning Office at (856) 665-1000 x128.



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Summer Fun From Pennsauken Parks and Recreation

Children in Pennsauken and Merchantville can add more fun and excitement to their summer months with entertaining and educational programs offered through Pennsauken's Department of Parks and Recreation.

Bowling

This fun camp will be at the amazing Pinsetter Bowling Center on Maple Ave. in Pennsauken. Basic bowling instruction will be provided by qualified instructors and skills competitions for prizes will be held the last day of the camp. The program runs from 10:00 a.m. to noon, Aug. 8-12, and is for kids ages 7-14. The fee is \$65 for the week and includes shoes and ball.

Creative Theater

The very popular Creative Theater Class runs from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on July 11-15. Children, ages 7-14, will learn stage movement, vocal projection, character study and improvisational games. They will create their own story and a video performance will be shown for friends and family on the last day of class. The cost is \$50 for the week and class is run by a professional entertainer/performer.

Dancing

Come and join the fun for an introduction to dance at DeMarco Dance Center, 177 South Centre St. in Merchantville. Camp will be from July 11-14, 10:00 a.m. to noon, for ages 7-14. This beginner class is run by a certified instructor. Cost is \$40 per person.

Golfing

Kids ages 7-13 can learn the basic skills of the golf game. The qualified instructor will teach the children about the game, including club selection, course etiquette and the correct club grip. The program will be held at the Pennsauken Country Club, 3800 Haddonfield Rd., June 20-24, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. The fee for this program is \$50.

Ice Skating

The Learn to Ice Skate camp will be held at the Virtua Health Pennsauken Skate Zone on River Rd. Children ages 2-15 will learn basic skating techniques for figure skating or hockey. The program is offered from 8:45 to 10:00 a.m. Aug. 1-5. Cost is \$40 per child and includes skate rental.

Junior Fire Academy

The Junior Fire Academy will be held at the Bloomfield Fire House, 5301 Lexington Ave. Children ages 10-14 will be introduced to the work of a firefighter and develop the skills of teamwork, time management, and responsibility in a fun and education environment. Attendees will participate in short classroom sessions and

complete multiple hands-on activities and field assignments. The academy will be held from July 18-22, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday through Wednesday; and 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. Cost is \$50 per child and includes t-shirt, hat, all required materials, and safety equipment, as well as water, snacks, and refreshments. Lunch will be provided Thursday and Friday. The weeklong academy will conclude with a graduation ceremony on Friday at 3:00 p.m.

NEW!

Muay Thai

Learn the basics of traditional Muay Thai kick boxing during this special camp held from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m., June 27 to July 1 at Kao Muay Thai, 7710 Maple Ave. This class is open to children ages 7 to 14. The cost is \$40 per child and includes hand wraps for participants.

Multi-Media Art Creations

Explore an array of mediums in this art class that includes clay, fiber, paper, jewelry, and found objects. Individual expression will be highly encouraged. This class is all about thinking outside the box. Class will be held at the PYAA Field House on Elm Ave., July 18-22 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The fee for this program is \$45. For kids ages 7-13.

NEW!

Nature Camp

This brand-new camp gives children ages 12 to 16 a chance to enjoy unique outdoor activities, including kayaking to Petty's Island and exploring Tippin's Pond. Nature Camp runs Aug. 8-11, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$50 per child.

NEW!

Pickleball

Come learn the fun, all ages sport at Pennsauken's new Pickleball Courts on River Rd.! Pickleball classes are open to children ages 7 to 14 and will run 9:30 a.m. to noon, July 11-14. The cost is \$45 per participant.

Sports

The Ike Willis Sports Camps are sponsored by the Pennsauken Parks and Recreation Department and are open to children ages 7 to 14. Each camp runs from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The dates and

costs for each program are as follows: Soccer, July 18-22, \$40; Basketball, July 25-29, \$40; and Baseball/Softball, Aug. 1-5, \$50. Soccer Camp is held at the Pennsauken Community Recreation Complex on Westfield Ave. Baseball/Softball Camp will be held at the field on Elm Ave. The location of Basketball Camp will be announced next month.

Swimming

Pennsauken Township will offer a learn-to-swim program for children ages 5-11 at the Municipal Pool, 6100 River Rd. Dates for morning sessions are June 21-23 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.; dates for evening sessions are June 13-15 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The fee for this program is \$30 per child for all three days, morning or evening sessions. Certified lifeguards with CPR training will instruct both sessions.

FOR FAMILIES

Join The Municipal Pool

The Parks and Recreation Department will begin accepting membership applications and fees for the 2022 pool season beginning on Monday, May 9. Appointments are required to sign up for the pool. To schedule an appointment, call (856) 665-1000 x0.

The Municipal Pool, located at 6100 River Rd.,

is open to Pennsauken and Merchantville residents only and all applicants must provide a photo ID, current utility bill, and birth certificate and report card for children. The pool opens 11:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. weekends only beginning on May 28. After June 18, the pool will also be open from noon to 7:30 p.m. on weekdays. Pool fees and other information are available at <https://pennsauken.gov/content/pennsauken-municipal-pool> as well as through the Pennsauken Parks and Recreation Department.

TO REGISTER

Registration for most summer programs begins on May 9 at the Pennsauken Municipal Building, Rt. 130 and Merchantville Ave. Forms are available at the municipal building from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Program listings and downloadable registration forms are available online at <https://pennsauken.gov/content/summer-programs>. Payment is accepted in cash, check, or money order. For more information, contact the Department of Parks and Recreation at jvazquez@twp.pennsauken.nj.us or (856) 665-1000 ext. 151.

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An Egg-cellent Time For Pennsauken Kids

There was great community turnout at the return of Pennsauken's annual Easter Egg Hunt!



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Cleaning Up Pennsauken's Open Spaces



Almost 100 volunteers helped to remove over one ton of trash from several parks, as well as the Pennsauken Boat ramp, during the Township's Spring Clean Up in April. Thank you to the residents, first responders, community groups and municipal employees who lent a hand!

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**Merchantville
 Art Walk 2022**

Friday, May 6th

THE POPULAR ART WALK MAKES ITS RETURN TO THE STREETS OF DOWNTOWN MERCHANTVILLE

Experience Art from emerging local artists and live music will be found throughout the downtown

It's an opportunity for residents to enjoy art, music, and culture right outside their front door, and for those in neighboring communities to experience historic Merchantville.



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EDITOR'S My Love-Hate Relationship With Wordle

DESK



By Frank Sinatra,
AAP Editor

Swift. Watch. Trail. Named. No, these are not the new verbal triggers to activate the Winter Solider. They're my go to first tries for Wordle. If you're unfamiliar, Wordle is an extremely popular online word game, where you get six tries to guess a five-letter word. Correct letters in the wrong spot are yellow. Correct letters in the right position turn green. And when I can't figure it out, I turn a little red.

When Wordle first came out, I disliked it immensely. If your job is to regularly come up with the right word, why on Earth would you make a game out of

it? What made things worse, the people who play can share their results via social media using a graphic that resembles a knock off Rubik's Cube that you order on Wish. I saw that funky block all over my Facebook feed. What happened to all the cat videos and Spider-Man memes? Wordle. That's what.

Everyone in my house was playing but me. My wife. The kids. I even think the dog gave it a try a couple of times. My daughter convinced me to give it a shot. It's... not terrible. One of my old elementary teachers stated that "one of the joys of writing is playing with words." She could have a point. But then there are the times I get the first two letters of the word in the right position, all of my other guesses have been wrong, and I've got

one shot left. So much fun.

Despite my frustrations, I have become a reluctant daily Wordle player. The sky hasn't fallen, but neither has my blood pressure. It's not a bad brain exercise to start the day. Attempting Quordle – nine guesses to solve four words – I believe would make my head explode. There's even something called Canuckle, where you try to guess a word or place related to Canada. Just... no. I am not a glutton for punishment.

So there you go Wordle fans... I am one of your people. Kind of.

Happy Mother's Day to the all the moms in different shapes and sizes. I would have written about how awesome a mother my wife is, but there isn't enough space in the paper.

Celebrating The Strength Of Mothers

continued from page 3

stead board. She also was a prominent member of the NAACP and Pennsauken Alliance Against Substance Abuse, among other community organizations. The work she, and the incredible women of Homestead, were able to accomplish, as well as the strength of character they showed, were inspiring. What incredible, motherly women to look up to!

The strength of my mother was a guiding force throughout my life. She sacrificed to give her family a better life. It was a source of inspiration as my husband, Darryl, and I raised four children on a limited income. I changed careers so that I could be there for them. And we certainly made sure that each of them got a college education.

My mother preserved with a special strength and courage when my father passed away in 2005. It was a lesson well learned when my family said goodbye to her 10 years later. You never really get over the loss of your mother, but her spirit continues to live on in our hearts.

My mother was proud of me then and I know that she is proud of me now. As a mother of grown children making their way in the world, I hope I can continue to share that strength to Darrah, Darryl, Jared and Isaiah. Because that's just what moms do.

My wish for Pennsauken is to have a wonderful and special Mother's Day. Thank you to all of the mothers in our lives and for the incredible strength you show us each and every day.



PMAC Networking Luncheon Held On May 11

The Pennsauken-Merchantville Area Chamber of Commerce (PMAC) will hold its next networking luncheon on Wednesday, May 11, at the Pennsauken Country Club, 3800 Haddonfield Rd.

The cost is \$30 per person.

PMAC members can R.S.V.P. by contacting Nancy Ellis at (856) 438-0833 or pmac1team@gmail.com.

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Facebook Live Event Held May 16

continued from page 3

May 16 is just another way for our community to reach out to Deputy Mayor Roberts and myself to share their thoughts on what's happening in Pennsauken and ask us questions."

The live stream is anticipated to last

around an hour. Individuals wishing to participate are encouraged to submit their questions through Thursday, May 12, at the Township website at https://bit.ly/PennsaukenFB_Live. Questions submitted live during the stream will also be answered as time allows.



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More Than A Business: Countrywide Home Care Creates A Family By Choice

"A family by choice." That's how Anna Adler, executive director and owner of Countrywide Home Care, describes the approach of her staff to serving clients throughout Southern New Jersey.

"I wanted to create something different: a business with a huge heart," explains Adler. "I have lived in this community since I was 13 and was working in home care for over 20 years. I realized that no home health care agency really had the community in mind. I needed to create something special that truly took care of elderly and disabled clients, as well as those who care for them. I treat every aide and client like family."

In the last two and a half years, Countrywide in New Jersey has expanded to two locations, with over 400 aides serving 750 clients in places like Camden, Pennsauken, Glassboro, Gloucester, Sicklerville, Williamstown, and a variety of communities in Cumberland County. Certified Home Health Aides provide

care right in the clients' homes, assisting with bathing, toileting, ambulation, transferring clients in and out of beds and wheelchairs, grooming, food preparation, laundry, light housekeeping, and errands. The aides also provide companionship and a caring ear ready to listen.

"Our staff forms valuable connections with our clients. So many people are alone with no family and no one to talk to," says Adler. "And with staff who speak languages like Spanish, Russian, Korean, Hebrew, and Hindi, we can relate to them in their native tongues."

Countrywide also has a strong partnership with the Jewish Federation to take care of aging Holocaust survivors.

"It's such a gift to be able to do something for these people," adds Adler. "I personally meet with each survivor we care for; and each aide who cares for these clients learns about the Holocaust as part of their training."

As part of her commitment to serving the community, Adler is very hands

on with the families she serves, as well as her employees.

"We're a family and families are supposed to take care of each other," explains Adler. "We make sure that our community is fed. We get deliveries twice of month of chicken, peanut butter, and rice. We stock up the freezers for the clients and the aides. We make sure that everybody has an opportunity to get to work. If there's an emergency and an aide doesn't have transportation, we'll come get them. We also offer clients and their families an on-call service that's available 24/7, with a live person on the phone."

"I love the community, and this is what is important to me. Countrywide is my life. I will do anything for everyone. We are a business with a huge heart."

Countrywide Home Care is located at 5287 Marlton Pike, Rt. 70, Suite C, in Pennsauken. For more information, call 856-661-1000 or visit countrywidehomecare.org.



The staff of Countrywide Home Care: "A family by choice."



Countrywide Home Care strives to add value to peoples' lives by providing them with optimal care. By treating people with dignity, and respecting their space, privacy, and beliefs we aim to provide the best care possible. Our promise is to hire people that are not only certified and skilled, but also caring, kind, and empathetic. We are here to work and live within the community that we care for.

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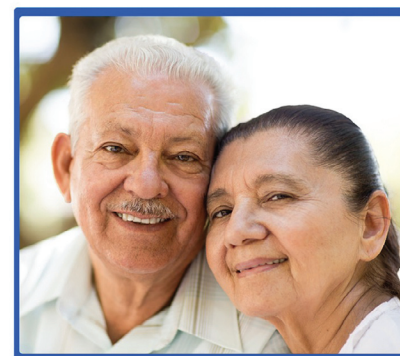


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Pennsauken PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

By Joe Scavuzzo, Director,
Department of Public Works

The week of May 15 is designated as "National Public Works Week." Each year, the American Public Works Association chooses a theme. This year's theme, "Ready and Resilient," illustrates that "public works professionals are always READY to serve their communities and RESILIENT as ever in their abilities to pick themselves up off the ground after encountering challenges." With just over two years of operating

National Public Works Week 2022: "Ready and Resilient"

during a pandemic, your local Public Works team has displayed this resiliency on a daily basis, along with an unwavering humbleness.

The theme further identifies the regular duties that our department handles, while being ready at a moment's notice to react as first responders during damaging storms and other natural disasters. You may not be aware of the arsenal of chainsaws and stormwater tools that are maintained throughout the year, ready for deployment. With storm season ap-

proaching, this readiness is paramount to our community's well-being.

In our fast-paced society of text messages and emails, we can feel rushed to complete our work and move on. It's all too easy to forget the simple gesture of a "thank you." On behalf of Superintendent Feriozzi and myself, I want to extend a heartfelt "thank you" to our entire Department of Public Works crew for their tireless efforts. We are a department that is depended upon for support from various agencies and other Township departments, constantly being pulled in multiple directions. These guys make it happen and those that rely on Public Works are appreciative. I hear it all the time.

As I wrote in the April article, we are looking to transition to a scheduled

pickup of bulk items. You will still be permitted two bulk items, each week, on your regular trash day. The only difference is that you will need to contact Pennsauken's Department of Public Works in order to be placed on the collection list. In January, I reported that Seaside Waste would continue to collect residential garbage, while Public Works staff will collect the bulk items. With the escalating cost of fuel, we have determined that it would be more efficient to follow a list of bulk item addresses, opposed to driving down every street each week. Simply call, Facebook message us, or email our office with your address and item description and we'll add you to the list.

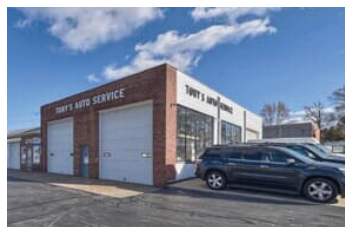
We have already seen an increase in bulk item notifications, which is great! As

we rollout this campaign over the next several weeks, we'll update the Public Works page on the Township website, as well as our social media postings.

There is a Camden County Household Hazardous Waste Event on May 14 in Atco at the corner of Atco and Raritan avenues from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information, contact our office at (856) 663-0178 or PublicWorks@pennsauken.gov.

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moves to Wednesday, June 1.

White goods and yard waste pickup
is on Thursday, June 2.

Thursday's trash and recycling
collection moves to Friday, June 3.

Friday's pickup will be on
Saturday, June 4.

Camden County is holding a Household
Hazardous Waste Collection event on
Saturday, May 14, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.,
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Officer Hurley And Monty Visit Baldwin



Officer Hurley and his K-9 partner, Monty, visited students at Baldwin for a special demonstration.

On March 28, Pre-K students at Baldwin Early Education Learning Center had the privilege to witness Officer Hurley perform a K-9 demonstration with his partner, Monty. Although Monty was still recovering from a surgery, he was able to perform several tasks to demonstrate to the students. Monty is a very friendly and intelligent police dog!

As part of the demonstration, Officer Hurley had Monty follow commands, such as sit, stay, and go.

Officer Hurley gave Monty commands in Slovak, a language spoken in Czechoslovakia, where Monty came from. Officer Hurley also hid some objects in the grass for Monty to find. Once given the command, Monty retrieved all the objects and was rewarded with his favorite

toy: a yellow ball. The K-9 sat next to the object to show that he had found it.

For the final demonstration, Officer Hurley had Mrs. Dunn, one of Baldwin's Pre-K teachers, throw her car keys on the grass where Monty couldn't see. Then Monty searched and found the car keys for Officer Hurley.

During the conclusion of the K-9 demonstration, the students lined up on the perimeter of the black top to be able to pet Monty before he left to continue with his duties as a K-9 police dog.

It's sad that this was Officer Hurley's last K-9 demonstration because he has retired this year, along with his K-9 dog, Monty.

We all had an awesome experience! Best wishes to Officer Hurley and Monty on their retirement!

Sunflowers Brighten Hallways At Fine School



Fine staff created a sunflower display to show support for Ms. Khrystyna Kris, a teacher originally from Ukraine.

The sunflower, Ukraine's national flower, is becoming a symbol of resistance against the country's invasion by Russian forces. According to Google, the sunflower's exuberant and lively form represents the antithesis of the destruction now being suffered by the Ukrainian people.

Pre-K teacher, Ms. Khrystyna Kris, is from Ukraine; her parents are still there. We think and pray for her and her family often.

Educational aide Siobhan Doyle and her daughter, Taylor, created a special sunflower display on the wall next to Ms. Kris' room. What a wonderful message of selflessness and thoughtfulness! Special thanks to art teacher Ms. Cotto for providing the poignant words for the display.

Cadets Remember Bataan Death March



Cadets from Pennsauken High School's JROTC were joined by teachers and Pennsauken Police Officers in a 14.2-mile march around Cooper River Park to remember the Bataan Death March in 1942.

Enjoying Their First Middle School Dance



Sixth grade students enjoyed their first middle school dance. The Student Government did a great job, as students danced the evening away with their friends!

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Mr. Honeyman Still Getting His Kicks



Fine Principal Mr. Honeyman competed in an over-40 soccer tournament. His team took second place!

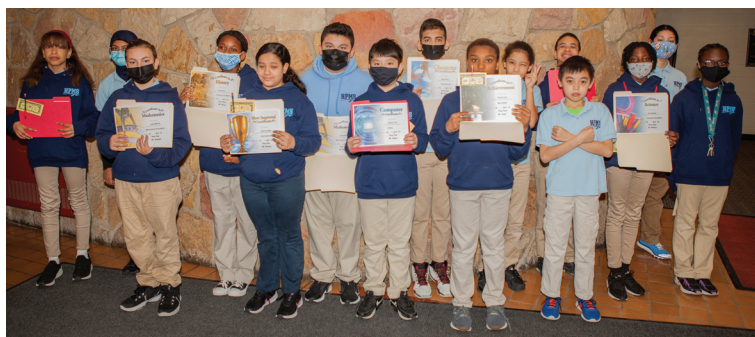
During the weekend of March 18, Fine School principal, Mr. Honeyman, and 17 other men traveled to Cocoa Beach, Fla. to compete in an over-40 soccer tournament.

The "old" men played teams from New York, Miami, and Orlando. Mr.

Honeyman's team finished in second place out of five teams!

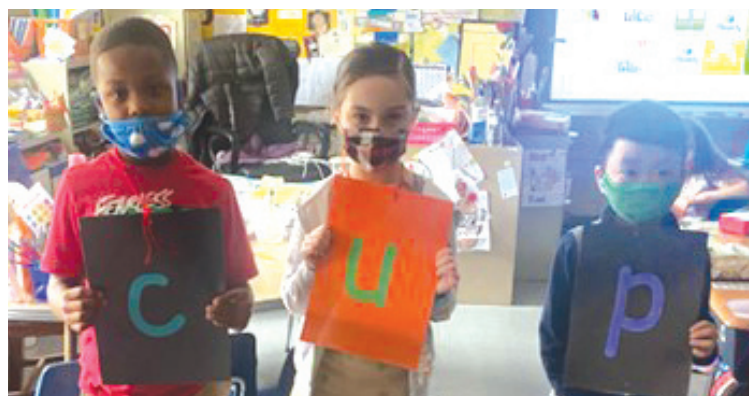
Mr. Honeyman wants all of his students to know that you're never too old to keep playing games you love, and solid exercise usually keeps a person young at heart!

Phifer Celebrates Students Of The Month



Congratulations to the Phifer sixth graders who are students of the month for April!

Celebrating Read Across America At Franklin



Franklin celebrated Read Across America with a fun week of reading books and traveling around the world! Students played Words with Friends and dressed up to show what they wanted to be when they grew up. It was a great week celebrating, learning, and reading diverse books!

Seventh Grade Students Of The Month



Congratulations to Phifer's seventh grade students of the month for April!

Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge Educates Fine Students



Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge brought live animals to help talk about conservation with Fine Elementary students.

Representatives from Medford's Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge visited Fine School in late March. Rachel, Erin, and Bridget came to Fine School with a screech owl, a red-tailed hawk, and a great horned owl to teach students about domestic animal conservation. The refuge's mission is "dedication to the preservation of New Jersey's wildlife and habitats through education, conservation, and rehabilitation."

Rachel did most of the talking and asked important questions to the students about wildlife found in the New Jersey surroundings. She explained what the rehabilitation hospital does and who the typical patients are. The birds that were brought to Fine all arrived at Cedar Run for one reason or another, and their presence made everything seem so real to the students. Jemma, the screech owl, moved her head back and forth while calmly perched on Erin's wrist, and for many of the young students, it was the first time seeing a live owl so close.

Rachel said that Cedar Run, "serves as an active resource to the greater New Jersey community on all wildlife and habitat related questions and issues." Maybe because of this visit, more Pennsauken students will continue to be curious of our domestic wildlife and even visit Cedar Run in the future!



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Beginning May In Pennsauken Public Schools

By Dr. Ronnie Tarchichi, MEd², M.S., M.B.S., M.A.², Ed.D., Ph.D., Superintendent, Pennsauken Public Schools; and the Pennsauken Board of Education: Nick Perry, President; JoAnn Young, Vice President; Lisa Eckel; Michael Hurley; Maria James; Diane Johnson; Samer John Jarbough-Rafeh; Scott La Vine; and Orlando Viera

We hope that everyone – staff, students, and school families – had a restful spring break and have come back to finish the school year with smiles on their faces. There is much to smile about, as we have had a very successful school year. Throughout the year, our students have been taught that the desire to learn is mirrored with doing the right thing. Moreover, Plato said “education is reaching our children to desire the right things.”

Our superintendent of Pennsauken

Public Schools and the Board of Education would like to thank our parents and educators for continuing to encourage our students about the value of education and how their hard work will then benefit others within their world. As we all heal from the past two years, including the pandemic and remote learning, we thank each and every one of you for your flexibility and understanding as we continue to take steps to ensure the safety and overall learning of our educational community.

We are very grateful for the administrators who have shown their leadership, and the teachers and staff members, who have shown their courage by serving our students and families during times such as these. They have not only shown

courage by doing their duty, but also have truly gone above and beyond. We are extremely proud of you!

Our coaches also taught important life lessons to our student athletes. While our teams didn't win every game, they learned something more important: that regardless of uncontrollable circumstances, you must show up and work hard. Their hard work paid off in dividends. With the leadership of Coach Tabb, our Indoor Track Team has become State Champions once again. Our student athletes will be honored by the Board of Education during the May meeting, where they will receive jackets and championship rings as a great token of their victory. Our great students not only confronted adversity in these times

of uncertainty, but they became champions of the entire State of New Jersey. Well done!

All teachers have truly pivoted their instruction as to accommodate all learners, especially students that have had a difficult time readjusting to face-to-face learning after learning from a distance. Pennsauken Public School educators have made many transitions and continue to accommodate our students, which has been so helpful to our learners and families.

As we prepare for the last two months of the 2021-22 school year, we thank each and every one of our parents and guardians for supporting their children during this extraordinary school year. Dr. Tarchichi and the Board of Education

would like to offer our graduating seniors and eighth grade students a very special experience that was not available due to the pandemic. Both classes will be graduating from the Temple University Liacouras Center to commemorate their accomplishments. Pennsauken Public Schools and the Board of Education remain committed to offering an enriching and rewarding learning environment for our staff and students despite worldly circumstances. Working together – and despite all of the obstacles we have faced – we will continue to help our children grow and succeed in 2022 and beyond.

We look forward to seeing you to share in all the accomplishments of our wonderful elementary and secondary students in Pennsauken Public Schools!

Getting Ready For “The Hungry Caterpillar”

Rehearsals for the play, “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” are going wonderfully! Franklin's kindergarten and first grade students have been practicing their songs and lines, as well as doing theater activities such as “Mirrors” to learn how to pay close attention to their fellow actors.

Mrs. Shaner is directing the show, which will be performed on the evening of May 4!

Kindergartners and first graders were hard at work rehearsing for “The Hungry Caterpillar.”



Fine First Graders Studying Communities



Fine first graders built models of buildings in their communities and talked about them in class.

First grade students at Fine elementary are studying communities in Social Studies. They were tasked with building a model of a building in their community.

Students had to be prepared to talk about the building and how it serves the

community. Just a few of the buildings represented were the Pennsauken Police Department, Cooper Hospital, and the Griffith Morgan House.

Way to go students!

Celebrating Fine Students Of The Month



Fine's students of the month were recognized for kindness and helpfulness in February, and self-control, responsibility, and reliability in March. Congratulations!

Opening Day For Indians Baseball Club



The Indians Baseball Club held its opening day at Pennsauken High School last month! Pennsauken Public Schools are excited to help give back to the community through support of youth sports programs!

Phifer Book Drives Support Reading For Veterans



Phifer's Student Council holds book drives to support reading for a variety of groups, including U.S. veterans. Instead of throwing out old books or recycling them, students donate them so they can be read and enjoyed again!



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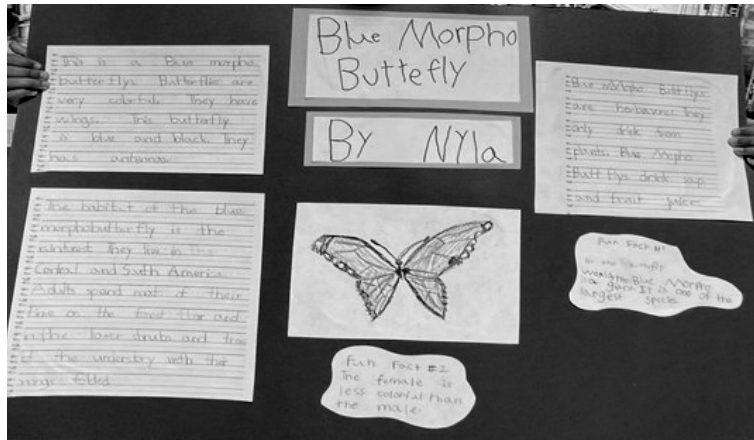
WITH CURRENT CDL CLASS B & REQUIRED P/S Endorsements:

- Must Pass Drug Test
- Background Check



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Animal Poster Museum



Franklin students created colorful and informative posters about animals.

To wrap up their unit of informational writing, Room 134 at Ben Franklin Elementary hosted an Animal Poster Museum.

Students selected an animal they wanted to learn more about and researched it on Epic, NatGeoKids, and Zoo Books. Students then wrote descrip-

tions of their animals, including their appearance, habitat, and diet. With illustrations and additional "fun facts," students created colorful posters and invited school staff to visit their exhibits in their class museum.

Animal posters are now on temporary display in the first grade hallway at Franklin.

"Wellness Wednesdays" At Delair



As part of "Wellness Wednesdays" at Delair, students loved coming to school in their pajamas and enjoyed some quiet time coloring!

Bring Your Child To Work Day At Delair



Delair School welcomed over 15 guests for Take Your Child To Work Day! Visitors helped in classrooms, at recess, and all throughout the day, while interviewing team members about their roles in education!

Guerrero Receives Scholarship, Laptop



Camille Guerrero, a PHS senior and Air Force JROTC cadet major, received \$10,000 and a laptop through the 50 State Managers scholarship program.

Camille Guerrero, a PHS senior and cadet major for the Air Force JROTC, has received \$10,000 and a new laptop through a scholarship program that is investing in future leaders.

Created by the National Veterans Business Development Council (NVDBC), the 50 State Managers Program shows appreciation for those currently enrolled in an ROTC program by awarding scholarships across the country.

The award was presented to Guerrero by John J. Piekarski, president, ALLY Construction Services, LLC and Navy veteran, and said Jessica Wisniewski, ALLY's project coordinator and corporate ambassador.

Phifer Celebrates Cambodian New Year



Our students enjoy celebrating diverse cultures! Phifer's Asian American Club celebrated the Cambodian New Year on April 14. A parade was held throughout the halls for all to enjoy!

"Noche Latina" At Pennsauken High School



The Latino Cultures Club at Pennsauken High School sponsored "Noche Latina," an evening of music, dancing, and fun!

PENNSAUKEN SCHOOL NEWS

For further information about the articles or events published in the Pennsauken School News section of "All Around Pennsauken" please contact:

Nicole Roberts, Editor
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Consumer Confidence Report

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Our annual Consumer Confidence Report has been completed. This edition covers all testing completed from January through December 2021. We are proud to inform you that our compliance with all state and federal drinking water laws remains exemplary. As always, we are committed to delivering the best quality drinking water. We remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

The MPWC will no longer mail individual copies of the Consumer Confidence Report to customers, as it is available electronically, on our website, by following the link on your water bill, or by visiting www.gemgrp.com/eReports/MPWC2021CCR.pdf

Printed copies will be available in our office on or before July 1, 2022, and when then the lobby re-opens to the public. If you have any questions, please contact our Customer Support Center during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

KEEP INFORMED WITH REVERSE 9-1-1

For members of the community directly affected by water main breaks, we provide messages via our Reverse 9-1-1 notification system. To stay informed of all water emergencies that may occur within our service area, visit MPWC.com/swift911 to sign up for Reverse 9-1-1!



If you are a landlord, you must distribute this CCR to every tenant as soon as practicable, but no later than three business days after receipt. Delivery must be done by hand, mail, or email and by posting the information in a prominent location at the entrance of each rental premises, pursuant to Section 3 of P.L. 2021, c. 82 (C.58:12A-12.4 et seq.).

PWS ID#: 0424001

Have You Received A Direct Mail Piece For Service Line Protection?

The MPWC has recognized HomeServe as a credible organization and as such supports their efforts to market a **voluntary** service line protection program to its customers. In lieu of any monetary gain, the MPWC insisted that the lowest possible monthly rate be offered to their customers. For more information, visit us on the web at www.mpwc.com.

Payment Assistance Is Available To Those Who Qualify

If you need to make payment arrangements, please contact our office immediately. Applying for an installment agreement with the MPWC will allow you to pay past due balances without accruing interest and additional penalties. You may also qualify for utility aid under the New Jersey Department of Community Affair's Low-Income Home Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). Please visit our website at www.mpwc.com for more information and to apply.

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If you'd like to pay online, please visit our website at www.mpwc.com and select the yellow button that labeled "access online bill pay." To make a payment by phone, please dial 1-844-611-4016.

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Attention Customers: When paying your bill online, be reminded that the MPWC can only verify payments in real time if you pay through the link on our website. Please visit www.mpwc.com and click on the yellow button that reads "Access Online Bill Pay." Payments will be posted to your account on the next business day. If you are in danger of service termination, you may make an online payment and then contact our office, where a Customer Support Representative can log on and verify that your payment is pending.

When customers use a web browser to search for how to pay MPWC bills online, they are often directed to third party sights. Those payments can take up to 10 business days to reach our office.

THE QUICKEST AND SAFEST WAY TO PAY YOUR BILLS IS DIRECTLY WITH THE MPWC, EITHER IN PERSON OR VIA OUR SECURED PAYMENT SITE.

Please note that if you choose to pay through your bank's online "Bill Pay" option, processing will take some extra time. Your bank will actually cut a paper check and mail it to us via USPS. Be sure to schedule your payment well in advance of your due date to avoid penalties and possible service termination.

Meetings of the Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission are held in person on the second Thursday of every month at 4:00 p.m.

The location is the G. Burton German meeting room at the MPWC's Administrative Headquarters, 6751 Westfield Ave., Pennsauken, NJ 08110. The public is invited to attend. For more information, visit our website, MPWC.com

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In the **GARDEN** “Weather” Or Not It’s Time To Start Planting

By Victoria Rose, AAP Columnist

Every morning – and I mean EVERY morning – one of my first thoughts is “What is the weather for today?” I do not feel bad for Alexa when she is asked every morning, “Alexa what is the temperature in Pennsauken today?” I personally stopped asking, since she is not always correct, and may not even answer me. Now that’s a long story.

When checking the temperature, I rely on the old fashion way: looking out the window and sticking my head out the door. Sometimes you just do not know what to wear. What is it today? Shorts? Pants? Sweater? Heavy jacket? Boots, shoes, or sandals?

I did a quick Google search on

why the weather is so odd here in New Jersey. Our state is located between the North Pole and the Equator, giving us a variety of airstreams that range from dry to wet, and high to low temperatures. Also, because New Jersey is a coastal state, the ocean adds to the mix, causing more extreme weather. The winds have been particularly blustery, as Winnie the Pooh would say.

So with all this odd weather, when do we really know when to plant? Fortunately, many of the perennial plants are able to recognize the temperatures and come out at the correct time each year. They are not as delicate as some vegetables or annual flowers. Should we have a frost warn-

ing, plants already in the ground can be protected with sheets, towels, or blankets. Never use plastic since it does not provide warmth. As my mom says, always wait until Mother’s Day to plant the annuals to be safe. But with the way this year has been, I think I will wait an additional week or two. I want to make extra sure

Jack Frost has finally packed up and shipped out.

Once the weather is just right for the veggie lovers, tomatoes, eggplant, and pepper plants are great for our location. They are easy to take care of and you will have plenty of fresh grown produce for your kitchen. For the flower lovers, geraniums, marigolds,

and begonias are hardy plants that produce many flowers and grow well in our climate. Be sure to plant in a sunny location and water daily if it does not rain that day.

Thank you for taking the time to read my column. Until next time, be kind, be beautiful, and be happy!

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PUBLIC SAFETY Warmer Weather Brings More Property Crimes



By Pennsauken Township Police Chief Philip Olivo

As spring has sprung, and the weather breaks, everyone will hopefully have the chance to get outside and enjoy the weather. Histori-

cally, with the change in weather, property crimes do increase. This is especially true for the burglary of motor vehicles, due to increased foot traffic on the streets. There will be more people walking around our neighborhoods, checking the door handles on parked vehicles.

I remember when I was a detective, we arrested three different groups of people in one week who were burglarizing cars. These crimes are usually crimes of opportunity. The best way to protect your property is to be proactive. The good news is you can do this with the following two easy steps:

1. Lock the doors to your vehicle.
2. Do not leave valuables inside your vehicle.

It is that easy to greatly reduce your chance of being a victim! Even if you park your car in a driveway next to your house, these thieves will still check to see if your door is unlocked. I am sure there are some people reading this who have had their vehicle burglarized and they did not even realize it happened.

Whether you listen to my recommendations or not, I request that if your vehicle is burglarized, no matter how

minor you think it is, please contact the Pennsauken Township Police Department. Even if we are not able to recover any evidence, we will at least be able to track the burglary and deploy our assets in an effective and efficient manner to combat this problem.

I hope everyone enjoys the gift of spring this year. Keep an eye out and stay safe!

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Pennsauken Town Watch Meets On May 11



Pennsauken Township Police had a great showing at last month's Town Watch Meeting, held April 13 at its new location of the Pennsauken Police Community Outreach Center. Attendees spoke with officers about a variety of concerns,

including, "boom cars," street light outages, speeding, overnight truck parking, as well as other topics.

Member of the community are invited to attend this month's Town Watch

meeting, held on Wednesday, May 11, 6:30 p.m., at 4700 Westfield Ave.

For more information, visit the "Pennsauken Town Watch" Facebook Group.

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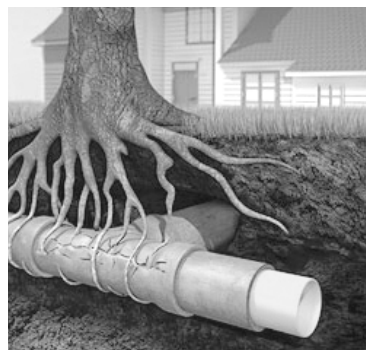
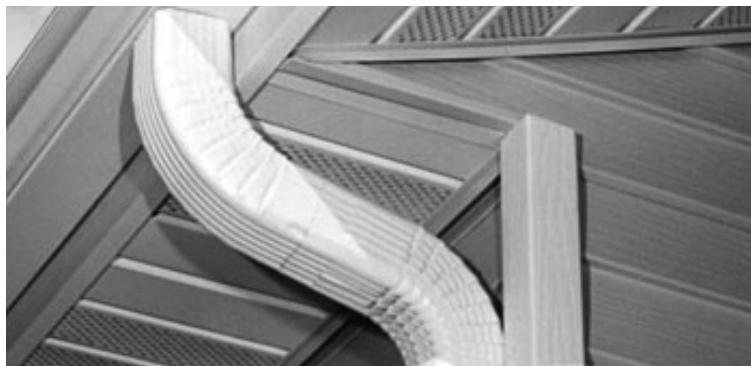
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The connection of sump pumps and down spouts to the sanitary sewer system is prohibited. During periods of heavy rain, these connections often overwhelm the main lines. This could result in a sewage back up into your own home or the home of your neighbor. If you need additional information about these types of connections, or suspect you or a neighbor, may have an improper connection and want information about having it removed, please call our office at (856) 663-5542.



Tree Roots Can Block Sewer Lines

With spring also comes renewed and vigorous growth of tree roots that can block sewer lines. We take every possible effort to keep our main lines free of roots through our maintenance program. The lateral line from your house to our main line, however, is the homeowner's responsibility.

If you have had a problem in the past, you are probably aware of the signs to

look for (slow drainage or a periodic back up). If you experience these problems, consider calling a plumber to check for tree roots. The plumber can remove the roots from your line. And, if you suspect the problem is in the main line, please call the Pennsauken Sewerage Authority at (856) 662-0686, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

IMPORTANT CUSTOMER INFORMATION

The Pennsauken Sewerage Authority is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the sanitary sewage collection system in our service area. The sanitary sewage collection system is made up of main lines, force mains and pumping stations.

The homeowner owns and therefore is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the lateral line from their dwelling up to and including the connection to the main line.

The rules and regulations of the Pennsauken Sewerage Authority require a back flow prevention device commonly referred to as a "back check valve" be installed whenever plumbing fixtures are located below street level, such as in the basement. PSA strongly recommends all our customers have a back check valve installed to prevent contamination in the event of a main line stoppage.

The discharge of water collected in a sump pit to the sanitary sewage collection system is prohibited. Cooking grease poured down the drain can cause a blockage of the lateral line. Please dispose of grease properly.

REMINDER: CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR NEXT PAYMENT IS DUE THIS MONTH.

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If there is a sewer emergency, call the emergency telephone number (856-662-0686) and someone will respond to the call. If you need to contact us for information, you can email customerservice@psewer.com and we will respond in a timely fashion.

If you are having a financial hardship and will be unable to pay your bill on time, or in full, please contact us at (856) 663-5542 to make payment arrangements. A simple 5-minute call could save you the inconvenience of being without water as well as the shut off fee which is currently \$75. Please do not send post dated checks to PSA without prior arrangements.

Mayor Talks About Economic Development In Pennsauken

continued from page 1

explained Rafeh. “Scrub Daddy, one of ‘Shark Tank’s’ most successful companies, chose Pennsauken for its global headquarters. They completed a \$10.7 million purchase of a 116,000 square foot property along Rt 130. The company has also invested over \$8 million rehabbing the site. Puratos Corporation invested \$10 million into its headquarters and innovation center. And Bayada Home Health Care purchased and completely renovated a 127,000 square foot property as their global support center.”

The mayor also spoke about Pennsauken’s diverse small businesses.

“Small businesses are extremely important to any community,” said Rafeh. “We’ve had places in town open for over 50 years, like the Penn Queen Diner and The Pub; Beacon Auto has been here for almost 75 years; Inglesby Funeral Home is just two years away from their 100th anniversary in Pennsauken; and McAlister was serving customers in Pennsauken even before it was called

Pennsauken! From services to sandwiches, we have it all.”

In addition, Rafeh highlighted two businesses that are part of trending industries.

“Top Pop Packaging is an \$18 million business. They make packaging for frozen pops that contain adult beverages and cocktails – something that became very popular during the pandemic; they outgrew their manufacturing facility in Marlton and moved to Pennsauken,” continued Rafeh. “Go Puff is a consumer goods and food delivery service started by two Drexel University students that has grown to over 650 cities in the U.S. alone. They moved from Philadelphia to Pennsauken.”

The mayor’s presentation continued with Rafeh mentioning both Pennsauken’s strong commercial real estate stock and the Township’s great neighborhoods. She also spoke about the Township’s support of businesses that are new to town.

“As Pennsauken’s mayor, I’m always

excited to be able to promote the opening of new businesses in town and participate in ribbon cuttings,” said Rafeh.

Another key topic was a look to the future. Pennsauken Township and the Pennsauken Free Public Library Board of Trustees were awarded over \$9 million through the New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act to help facilitate the building of a new library and municipal complex. The municipality also recently completed a reexamination of the town’s master plan, focusing on what can be done to better develop and grow the Pennsauken community.

In closing, Mayor Rafeh reiterated what made the Township a great place to live and work.

“Whether you’re looking for a great location, businesses making an impact in our region, or a diverse community, that’s Pennsauken,” said Rafeh. “I couldn’t be more proud of what we’ve been able to accomplish in our Township and look forward to the exciting opportunities ahead.”

GoodWorks Holds Open House On June 3

GoodWorks Building Contractors, located at 6928 Westfield Ave. in Pennsauken, is holding a grand opening/open house on Friday, June 3, from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Attendees can view the new office space, speak with owner and Pennsauken resident Alan Bibelheimer, and win giveaways from Township businesses.

For more information, call (856) 229-1240.



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Pennsauken Lions Club Continues To Help Those In Need



The Pennsauken Lions Club held its first monthly board meeting at the Pennsauken Free Public Library, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd., on April 4 at 6:00 p.m. During this time, members addressed issues that have affected the club during the last two years because of the pandemic. Membership recruitment campaigns, fundraisers, community activities, and addressing hunger have been at the heart of the Pennsauken Lions for more than 80 years.

While the pandemic did affect many of our initiatives, as well as how the Lions conducted business, we are happy to say that during this time, our in-school eye screening events at Pennsauken and Merchantville schools and several local

daycares were held in spite of these issues. Since October 2021 to the present, over 500 students have been screened in the schools and daycares, all thanks to the dedication of our Lions eye screening team. Over 12 percent of students screened did not pass their screening test because of eye issues. The Pennsauken Lions Club will continue to screen as many students as possible in our schools and daycares, which in turn will help capture eyes issues sooner rather than later.

In addition, our Lions events and fundraisers are geared to helping those community residents most in need: those that are food insecure, have vision problems, or need assistance in obtaining eyeglasses.

At the end of this school year, two Leo students from the Pennsauken High

School will receive scholarship awards for their academic achievements: the Lois V. Rossi Memorial Award and the Pennsauken Lions Club Award. We would like to thank those individuals that help make these scholarships possible though your generous contributions.

The Pennsauken Lions Club is looking for dedicated community individuals to join us for any future meeting and become a member.

If you would like more information about the Lions Club, to help the less fortunate citizens of the community, or donate to our vision screening or school scholarship efforts, consider joining us! Lions meet at 6:00 p.m. on the first Monday of each month (except holidays) at the Community Room of the Pennsauken Free Public Library, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd.

Please follow us @PennsaukenLions on Facebook, or email us at PennsaukenLionsClub1@gmail.com.

Pennsauken Police Officer Hurley Retires

Pennsauken Police Chief Phil Olivo and the entire Pennsauken Police Department would like to congratulate Officer Joseph Hurley, badge #146, on his retirement, effective April 1, 2022.

Officer Hurley was hired by the Pennsauken Police Department on September 5, 1995, as a Class II Officer and became a full-time police officer on July 1, 1996, assigned to the Patrol Division. He was quickly transferred to the K-9 unit and served there until his retirement. Over the course of his career, Hurley had five K-9 partners: Rakker, Bosko, Chris, Arko and Monty. All five served this department with distinction.

Officer Hurley was called upon countless times to assist in missing persons investigations and drug investigations with

his partners. He also was a host and demonstrator for thousands of grades schoolers at our department during National Police Week. As well as being a certified K-9 handler, Officer Hurley is a certified K-9 trainer. His dedication to K-9 is second to none, and it will be missed at the Pennsauken Police Department.

Officer Joseph Hurley has faithfully served the residents of Pennsauken for 26 years. We thank you for your dedication to law enforcement and protecting the residents of Pennsauken Township and wish you the best in all your future endeavors.

Editor's note: On April 11, Pennsauken Township Committee passed a resolution transferring ownership of K-9 Monty to Officer Hurley.



Pennsauken Police Officer Joseph Hurley and his K-9 partner, Monty, officially retired last month.

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Or, if you are more comfortable, we encourage you to visit our main offices: 700 Cinnaminson Ave, Building B, Palmyra NJ, 08065 We accept walk-in applications M-F between 9 AM - 3 PM to fill out an application. Also you can call Danielle Hollis @ 856-735-1015, or email resume to jpera@qmainc.com QMA is an equal opportunity employer. (mention this ad)

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FOODADVENTURES



La Mangonada Snack Bar at 4926 Westfield Ave. offers Latin-based food, drinks, and more.

By Rachael Shugars, AAP Columnist

I love those food places that I discover by accident. I wouldn't say it happens often, as I'm normally someone who likes to look at the menu and have an idea on what I want to order once I arrive somewhere. But in those rare moments I find a food gem it's a pleasant thrill.

I had visited the Rite Aid on Westfield Ave. recently and as I was coming out, I noticed an incredibly colorful place called La Mangonada Snack Bar. Located at 4926 Westfield Ave., the store is owned and operated by Mrs. Miranda and her family. How did I not know about them!?! First opened in fall 2021, La Mangonada offers a fantastic list of unique treats

Sweet And Savory Treats At La Mangonada Snack Bar

that are sweet, savory, or spicy, or ALL THREE! I had to bring my family to visit this place. Also, it's easier to order a bunch of stuff and not feel like a glutton if there are multiple people present.

Visiting with my son and my mother. I ordered the esquite (eh-skee-tay), a very popular Latin dish known as street corn that includes, corn, spices, mayonnaise, and cotija cheese. It's beautiful and tasty. You can order the dish without any of these ingredients, but I highly recommend trying it as suggested. It was sweet and salty and the cotija cheese helps to hold it all together. The serving size was perfectly shareable.

I also ordered a horchata, which is a Latin cinnamon and rice milk drink that I'm a huge fan of. For those unfamiliar, imagine having the taste of rice pudding but in a smooth, ice-cold drink. It's awesome.

My son got a strawberry smoothie (his fav). There is a long list of available flavors for the smoothies.

My mother ordered fruit and cream with cinnamon, and it was decadent. The fruit was fresh and cool, and the cinnamon and cream paired with it fantastically.

In February 2022, La Mangonada got voted "Most Loved on Doordash" and currently holds a review score over 4.5 stars. There are so many things available here including dessert waffles, ceviche, ice cream, specialty candies, fruit and veggie dishes, and their signature Mangonada Chamoyada, which has fresh mango,

peanuts, chamoy seasoning, tajin seasoning, a tamarind straw, and other various spices. This drink is intended to be spicy but is just at tasty sans spice.

The food is stellar, and the offerings are vast. Their snack bar is also able to host private events upon request. There is catering available here too, but what stood out to me the most is the artwork. All of the art and the painting was done by the owner herself, Mrs. Miranda, and this place is family-owned and operated.

You have to imagine the incredible amount of work it takes to bring your vision to life and serve the community around you. I encourage my fellow food adventurers to visit La Mangonada, not only to grab some ice cream or a smoothie, but to enjoy the beauty and color within. New places like this need our support and La Mangonada is just a great place to hang out and grab a bite.

They are open Tuesday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. You

can reach them by phone at (856) 345-4692 or via email at lamangonadasnackbar@gmail.com.

Be sure to follow them on Facebook, because they post specials all the time for holiday arrangements, special food items, and more. Don't forget to share your adventure on my Facebook page, "AAP Food Adventures," when you go and visit. Get some selfies near their La Mangonada mural! And as always, enjoy your Food Adventures.

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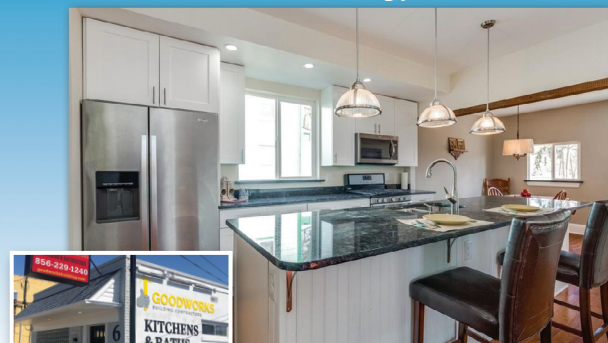


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FRIENDS of the LIBRARY “Munch And A Movie,” Yoga And More Offered By The Friends

By Arlene Miller, Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library

This month's Munch and a Movie is May 16. Don't forget, these events are on Mondays through June instead of our usual Tuesdays. We'll see you in the Community Room with your lunch at 1:00 p.m. and treat you to a nice snack and beverage while you watch the movie.

Our six-week “yoga for balance and posture” classes will start Friday, May 6, at 10:30 a.m. as a virtual program. The second class on May 13 will also be virtual, but the classes on May 20, June 3, June 10, and June 17 will be on site for a limited number of participants, as well as virtual. Be sure to stop by or call the cir-

culation desk to sign up for on-site classes beforehand. The link to register for virtual sessions is <https://tinyurl.com/FOL-balance>.

Please note that each on-site participant must bring and use his or her own “supplies,” either a large scarf or a belt, in order to fully participate and benefit from the exercises. The sessions will use both standing and sitting activities that can be adapted to fit individual preferences as needed.

After a two-year hiatus, our Art Show and Sale was a success that everyone enjoyed! One lucky winner even received a \$25 gift card to Michael's!

We're excited to remind everyone that

we're starting to plan our Fall Book and Media Sale, held Oct. 21 – 24 in the library's community room. We'll let you know when collection will begin; until then, please start checking through closets, basements, attics, etc., to find all those books you read and media you watched

to get through COVID. We should have quite an impressive display with all of us contributing. And don't forget the bake sale that will take place then as well!

In the meantime, if you didn't get your Friends membership renewal form, or would like to receive one, please call us

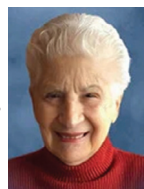
at (856) 665-5959, ext. 7 and let us know. And if you're willing to volunteer for an upcoming event, say sorting books, helping out during the sale, baking something, etc., let us know that as well. We appreciate the help!

DEATH NOTICES Remembering A Longtime Resident

Yolanda Rita Nasuti (nee Fala), 93, of Pennsauken, passed away peacefully on April 20, surrounded by her loving family. She was born June 14, 1928, at Lankenau Hospital in the beautiful Wynnewood section of Philadelphia, to loving parents Alfonso and Carmela Fala.

As a girl, Yolanda attended church and school at “Our Lady of Angels” Parish in the Italian section of West Philadelphia, followed by two years at a nearby trade school where she studied sewing. During her second year, Yolanda left to help financially support her family and began work “on the line” at Whitman's Chocolates on 4th and Race streets in Philadelphia. It's said she was one of the fastest on the line, so when CEO Mr. Whitman came to visit, her supervisor always brought him to see Yolanda's work!

At age 22, she met the handsome



Nasuti

Daniel Ralph Nasuti and they married the following year. Thrifty as she remained, throughout her life, instead of renting, she insisted they move in with Dan's parents in East Camden, NJ, where they saved money and she honed her Italian cooking skills from her mother-in-law Antoinette. Yolanda stayed on at Whitman's taking a bus to work until she was ready to start a family.

Dan and Yolanda bought their first home, a brick twin on 44th St. in Pennsauken, until their three daughters were young teens and they moved to Pettit Rd., where she resided for 50+ years. As her girls grew, Yolanda worked part time for years at the former Rudy's Market on Cove Rd. in Pennsauken, and in the cafeteria at Pennsauken Middle School until she finally retired at age 85! While she and Dan traveled internationally, her favorite vacations were their annual weeks at the beach in Ocean City and Wildwood, NJ.

Yolanda is survived by her three de-

voted daughters, Norma (Lawrence) Costello, Verna (Karl) Dentino, and Miriam Nasuti (James Gavan); her grandchildren Lindsay (Frank) McDonnell, Lauren (Adam) Micciulla, Courtney Costello (Patrick Mandeville), Sean Costello (Ashley Dodson), Luke Dentino (Jessica Wilson), Hannah Dentino (Timothy Granick), Dominic Gavan and Connor Gavan; and four great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her younger brother, Albert Fala.

She is preceded in death by her adoring husband Danny, her twin sister Angelina, and siblings Amelia, Edith, Eva, Francis and Louis.

Yolanda's viewing was held at Inglesby Funeral Home in Pennsauken. A Mass of Catholic Burial was at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church in Merchantville. Interment was at Calvary Cemetery in Cherry Hill.

In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to St. Jude's Children Research Hospital.



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GRAYMATTERS

Take Advantage Of The Power Of Flowers

By Judith Kristen,
AAP Columnist

What a beautiful month May is! All of us flower lovers can't wait to dig in (pun intended) and spruce up our gardens with glorious color! The plus is that there's ever so much more to gardening than what meets the eye.

As I was told by many a gardening aficionado, there are few activities that are more life-giving than creating a garden. Unless, of course, we take life-giving childbirth into consideration. And quite honestly, I'd rather plant 15,000 geraniums in a lightening-riddled rainstorm than give birth to another child at this point in my life. Frankly, I can't even imagine seeing my sixth child drive off to college the week I celebrate my 95th birthday. But hey, that's just me.

Now, back to the glories of flowering our world. In truth, any time we get to spend in nature is time never wasted. It benefits us in so many ways. It's as good for our body as it is for our mind. A trip into nature all by itself is an uplifting experience; but when you're an active participant, even better! It connects you to Mother Nature and gifts your spirit with purpose and the pleasurable visual sense of giving something special back to the earth.

And, as a plus, you will more than

likely find yourself connecting with neighbors who, prior to your loving gardening project, may have been nothing more than strangers who live right near you on the same street. They could be admirers of your personal creativity, looking to your work for their own inspiration, or be lifelong gardening enthusiasts themselves.

Here's another plus: there have been many studies that show linking in with Mother Nature helps with stress and anxiety; you will have a better recovery from surgery; and find yourself more able to bring better emotional management into your life. A Zen moment if you will. That information alone was enough to send me off to the garden center for 300 pounds of a rich sandy loam (a mixture of silt, sand, and clay soils, as well as copious amounts of healthy soil and compost.

On top of all of this, my favorite Beatie, George Harrison, was an amazing gardener. His magnificent home, named Friar Park, is 37 miles west of London, and filled with everything from the simplest of flowered treasures to towering trees, plus an Alpine rock garden with a scale model of the Matterhorn. Could there be Edelweiss there as well? It wouldn't surprise me.

His Henley-on-Thames garden is also

filled with delightful gnomes, caves, grottoes, and underground passages, all styled with the beauty, grace, and imagination of George's tender-loving care.

You know, I just felt myself relax when I wrote that, and I'm nowhere near a flower at the moment.

Our yards don't have to replicate Friar Park or look like the Gardens of Versailles; even one potted plant or flower box by your front door can do the trick.

Please invite Mother Nature in. I assure you: you'll both be very happy to be in each other's company.

This column is dedicated to my friends and loving gardeners: Kristen Beisel, Victoria Rose, Shelly Fredman, Lisa Callaghan, Maryanne Carney, Jean Rowand, and Betsy Bernhardt.

"We might think we are nurturing our garden, but of course it's our garden that is really nurturing us" - Jenny Uglov

Peace and love and flower power!

Your friend,

~ Judy

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Ashley currently resides in Cherry Hill. She attended Merchantville Elementary School and Camden Catholic High School. Ashley graduated from Rider University with a Bachelor's Degree in Communications with Concentrations in TV & Radio Production and Marketing. She worked in Sports & Media Marketing with Greater Media Philadelphia's radio stations WMMR-FM 93.3, WPEN-FM 97.5 The Fanatic, and ESPN-AM 950.

Ashley decided in 2010 to pursue a career in the Funeral Industry and continue the family business. She received her Funeral Service Certificate from Mercer County College and her NJ Funeral Directors License in 2011. She is also a Certified Celebrant.

In the community, she is currently a parishioner at the Church of St. Peter in Merchantville and St. Stephen Church in Pennsauken, a sister of Delta Phi Epsilon Sorority, and a Big Sister Mentor. In her free time she enjoys swimming and watching the Philadelphia Flyers.

In 2015, Ashley married her husband, Robert. In 2016 they welcomed their first child, Robert Edward Condon IV and in 2018 they welcomed their second child Anastasia Rose Condon.

Ashley spends her time volunteering with the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, specifically with their NICU program, Grandma's Attic, which collects new, unused NICU clothing and blankets for the children in need.



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Events Honor Those Who Made The Ultimate Sacrifice continued from page 1

service at 11:00 a.m. Immediately following, local veterans will then join Pennsauken Township officials for a special Memorial Day Ceremony at Liberty Park, located at the corner of Westfield and Merchantville avenues. This service is slated to begin around noon.

"It's our honor to remember those brave men and women who gave their lives in service to this great country" said Pennsauken Mayor Jessica Rafeh. "We invite all of our community to join us as we honor the memory and the sacrifice of these fallen military members."

On Monday, May 30, AMVETS Post 101, 519 June Rd., will hold a wreath laying ceremony at 11:00 a.m., both at its post and then at the Delair War Memorial on River Rd., just south of the Betsy Ross Bridge.

Also on Memorial Day, American Legion F.W. Grigg Post 68 will hold its annual service at Wellwood Park, Linden Ave. and Maple Ave., in Merchantville. The ceremony begins promptly

at 10:00 a.m. Local Boy and Girl Scout units will present the colors. Additionally, local organizations will place memorial wreaths on the WWI and WWII Memorial Monuments.

Memorial Day Ceremony At Pennsauken High School

Local veterans are invited to join Pennsauken High School, 800 Hylton Rd., in honoring those who gave their lives for their country. This event is held on Friday, May 27, 8:30 to 10:00 a.m., at the high school's library, and features special presentations and a ceremony at the Pennsauken High School Alumni Veterans Memorial.

Veterans planning to attend are asked to R.S.V.P. to Bridget Zino at (856) 662-8500, ext. 5285 or bzino@pennsauken.net.

Flag Placements Held This Month

As part of their observance of Memorial Day, several veterans groups place American flags of the graves of their

fallen comrades in Pennsauken's cemeteries. Community members and service groups are invited to participate in this simple, yet powerful gesture that honors the men and women who paid the ultimate price for freedom.

FW Grigg Post 68 will hold three flag placements this month:

- Thursday, May 5, 10:00 a.m., Jordan Lawn Cemetery, Haddonfield Rd.
- Saturday, May 14, 10:00 a.m.; Bethel Memorial Park, Cove Rd. and Westfield Ave.
- Monday, May 16, 6:00 p.m.; Sunset Memorial Park, 1605 Union Ave.

For more information, visit "FW Grigg Post 68 American Legion" on Facebook.

VFW Post 1270 in Pennsauken will also be placing American flags on veterans' graves on Saturday, May 14, starting at 9:30 a.m. (rain date Sunday, May 15). Volunteers are asked to meet at the entrance to Arlington Cemetery on Cove Rd., between Pleasant and For-

rest avenues, where flags will be distributed. Afterwards, volunteers will proceed to Calvary Cemetery on Hampton Rd. in Cherry Hill to flag graves there. Community service certificates will be awarded to all students who need them. Please note transportation will not be provided. For more information, please call (856) 317-9081 during regular business hours.

Online Wall Of Honor Recognizes Veterans

Located on Pennsauken Township's website, Pennsauken's online Wall of

Honor recognizes Township residents, past or present, living or deceased, that proudly served in our nation's armed forces.

This is not a complete list and will be periodically updated. If individuals know of a past or present resident, living or dead, who has served in the military that is currently not included on the Wall of Honor, they can submit the name via an easy-to-use online form.

To view the list or to submit a name, visit <http://pennsauken.gov/content/pennsauken-wall-honor>.

Sister's Spot Opens On Mansion Boulevard



Pennsauken Mayor Jessica Rafeh and Deputy Mayor Nicole Roberts were on hand to help officially open Sister's Spot, an authentic soul food restaurant using local and fresh ingredients in a fun, chic, and relaxing atmosphere. For more info, visit SistersSpot.com.

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Mark Your Calendars: New Jersey's Bag Ban Begins May 4

By The Pennsauken Environmental Commission

Beginning May 4, New Jersey law will ban retailers, food service businesses, and grocery stores from providing single-use plastic and paper bags to customers. In addition, this new law will prevent food service businesses from providing polystyrene foam containers. Here is a quick primer on how this change impacts Pennsauken residents.

Which Businesses Are Affected?

A large variety of businesses are impacted by the plastic and paper bag ban. Grocery stores, convenience stores, liquor

stores, pharmacies, drug stores, and other retail establishments are all affected by New Jersey's ban, although grocery stores smaller than 2,500 square feet can still offer paper bags to customers. Food service businesses that are part of the ban include any establishment that sells or provides food for consumption on or off their premises, such as restaurants, cafés, delicatessens, coffee shops, vending trucks or carts, and food trucks.

What To Use Instead Of Paper And Plastic Bags

New Jersey consumers are asked to

use reusable carryout bags to shop. According to the New Jersey Clean Communities Council, a reusable carryout bag is defined as:

- Being made of polypropylene fabric, PET nonwoven fabric, nylon cloth, hemp product or other washable fabric
- Has stitched handles
- Designed and manufactured for multiple reuses
- Capable of withstanding multiple washes while maintaining usefulness and integrity
- Has a minimum of 125 uses

A reminder that disposable plastic bags are NOT recyclable. You can, however, reuse them a variety of different ways in your home, such as:

- Liners for small trash cans
- Kept in cars for emergencies and clean up
- Packing for travel
- Protecting fragile items during moves
- Carried when walking your dog to pick up pet waste

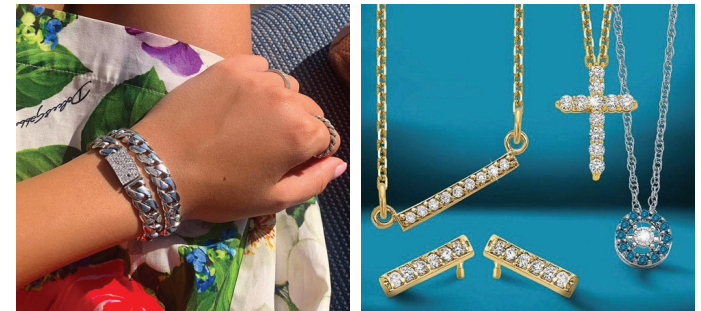
Reducing waste and litter is always beneficial; to help to do so, this law was created to be an effective and uniform sustainable policy for both New Jersey shoppers and businesses. For more information, visit BagUpNJ.com.

Enjoying Nature At Tippin's Pond



Pennsauken families got out and enjoyed the outdoors during the Township's annual Nature Enthusiast Day at Tippin's Pond.

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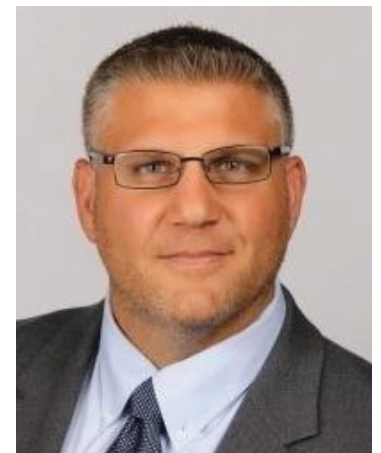
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inBooks

PENNSAUKEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library Receives Grant To Upgrade Mobile Computer Lab

The Pennsauken Free Public Library is pleased to announce that it has been awarded funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the New Jersey State Library to improve and increase digital literacy instruction. With the funds, the library will upgrade its Mobile Computer Lab, which is used for in-house computer instruction, and training for both the public and staff. The grant provides funding for new laptops, a document camera, mobile printer, and other equipment to support the digital literacy needs of the Pennsauken community. The Pennsauken Free Public Library is among 64 public libraries to be awarded funding in support of digital inclusion initiatives.

In an effort to bridge the digital divide and to provide community members with information literacy skills, the library offers technology classes throughout the year that range from basic computer

skills to advanced functions of Microsoft Office applications, Google Drive, and the use of video conferencing software. With tools that are current with today's technological standards, the library is now better equipped to meet the needs of the community.

Not only will the library's new Mobile Computer Lab be available for use in the library, but the equipment also can be used to support outreach efforts in the greater community. Along with public digital literacy instruction, the Mobile Computer Lab will also be used for staff training and professional development. In addition, the hardware from the Mobile Computer Lab will be made available for in-house borrowing, providing equitable access to technology for teachers, students, tutors, homeschoolers, business owners, job seekers, and many others in the community who lack computers or Internet access at home.

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May Library Events

Virtual Events

- Animal Crossing Open Play (All Ages) – Mondays, 5/2 and 5/16; 5:00 p.m. The Isle of PL welcomes players of all ages! To visit add PFPL's Nintendo Friend Code, SW-3902-1262-4235, visit your ACNH airport, and select "online play" to find us. Nintendo Online subscription required for online play.
- Yoga for Posture for Balance (Adults) – Fridays, 5/6 & 5/13; 10:30 a.m. The Friends of the Pennsauken Library invite you to join us for Yoga. The first two classes in this series will be held virtually, via Zoom. Registration required. Please call the library to register.
- Panel Discussion: Make Us Visible NJ (Teens & Adults) – Thursday, 5/12; 7:00 p.m. Members of Make Us Visible NJ speak about the organization and its successful effort to mandate teaching Asian American and Pacific Islander history in New Jersey's public schools. Held via Zoom. Register online at <https://tinyurl.com/pfplaapi>.

In-Person Events

- Preschool Storytime (Ages 3-5) – Tuesdays, 5/3, 5/10, 5/17, & 5/24; 11:00 a.m. Join Ms. Susan and Ms. Sabrina for storytime fun! Storytime combines reading with music, dancing, multilingual skills, finger-plays, and rhymes.
- Free Comic Book Day (All Ages) – Saturday, 5/7; regular library hours. Join us for a fun day full of giveaways, photo opportunities, art activities, and more! Come dressed as your favorite superhero or comic book character!
- Take & Make Tuesdays (Children & Families) – Tuesdays, 5/10 & 5/24; regular library hours. Stop by our Youth Services Department for free crafts that you can take with you and make at home! Crafts will be updated on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month and are available while supplies last during the library's regular open hours.
- Pajama Storytime (All Ages) – Wednesday, 5/11; 6:00 p.m. Cozy up in your pajamas, grab your favorite stuffed animal, and join PFPL's Youth Services for a special night-time storytime with Ms. Susan!
- FOL Munch and a Movie (Adults) – Monday, 5/16; 1:00 p.m. The Friends of the Pennsauken Library's monthly afternoon film series is back! Join us in the Community Room for a screening of May's movie. Registration required.
- Movie Night (All Ages) – Thursday, 5/19; 6:00 p.m. Kick back and enjoy a film appropriate for the whole family! Contact the library for more information.
- Yoga for Posture and Balance (Adults) – Friday, 5/20; 10:30 a.m. The Friends of

the Pennsauken Library invite you to join us for Yoga. These hybrid classes will be held virtually via Zoom, with unlimited capacity, and in-person with attendance limited to 20. Registration required. Please call the library to register.

- Ikebana Workshop with Sylvia Wei (Adults) – Saturday, 5/21; 11:00 a.m. Learn the beautiful Japanese art of flower arranging in this hands-on workshop, and brighten your home with your creation. Registration is limited and a \$5 materials fee is required. Please call the library to register.
- May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month, and we plan to celebrate throughout the month with events, displays and more. Please visit the library's website at www.pennsaukenlibrary.org to learn more.

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Dave Hershey Recognized For Decades Of Service To The Country Club

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

At a recent Township Committee meeting, Dave Hershey was recognized for his 32 years of service to the Pennsauken Country Club. Hershey retired from his role as supervising groundskeeper in March of this year.

"Dave Hershey has been an intricate piece of the fabric at the Pennsauken Country Club for over three decades," said Pennsauken Mayor Jessica Rafeh, during the reading of the proclamation presented to Hershey. "He leaves behind a legacy of hard work, commitment and competency that will not easily be exceeded."

"I want to thank Dave Hershey for his years of service to the Township for

creating a lot of great leadership in a department that flourished because of his hard work," added Township Committeeman Marco DiBattista.

In the summer of 1989, David Hershey applied for a part-time job at the Pennsauken Country Club. At the time, he was nothing more than a 20-year-old college student looking for a summer job between semesters. But ultimately, he moved from Lancaster County to South Jersey because he "met a girl," the woman who would ultimately become his wife, Jeannine; and their three daughters have fond memories growing up at the Club and golf course.

From the beginning of Dave's career, he demonstrated an incredibly strong work ethic. Although Dave's initial position was as a maintenance grounds worker, he quickly ascended to a grounds 2 position. Within two years, Dave would advance again into the position of full groundskeeper, then supervising groundskeeper a year later, the role he would have until his retirement. Colleagues of Dave's at the golf course have remarked that he is the best that they have worked with, and his dedication, knowledge and performance were second to none.

In 2013, David introduced the family puppy, Henry, to the Pennsauken Country Club. Henry quickly became an integral member of the grounds crew and the well-known Labrador from the golf course. Henry loved chasing the geese, swimming in the pond, jumping in the sprinklers, receiving treats from club members, and eating his daily hotdog from the restaurant.

"I loved my job and Pennsauken Township stood behind me and allowed me to do my job. That's a great thing to



Dave Hershey was recognized for 32 years of dedication to the Pennsauken Country Club.

say," said Hershey. "They were very supportive, and they wanted [the Country Club] to be the best that it could be. The sky was the limit, and I relished the challenge. The grounds crew, they're the guys

that did the work every day. They're all a part of it. I want to say thank you to them."

A special thank you to Jeannine Hershey for contributing to this article.

Merchantville Art Walk 2022



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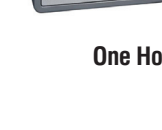
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Residents who feed feral cats are considered to take ownership, and full responsibility, of the feral cat(s). The proper way to handle feral cats on your property is to call animal control, who will assist you in trapping the cats and transporting them to the animal shelter. For assistance with feral cats that have become a nuisance, please call New Jersey Animal Control (NJAC) at 609-685-3384 to

arrange for trapping.

Alternatively, you can manage a cat colony on your property through the Pennsauken Community Cat Program. The Community Cat program was adopted in 2021 by the Township to protect the public health of its residents, prevent the spread of disease, and reduce the impact on shelter resources. Beginning last month, New Jersey Animal Control

(NJAC) began managing the issuance of traps associated with Pennsauken's Community Cat Program. If you are a resident of Pennsauken Township and are participating in the Community Cat Program, you can reserve a trap online at <https://pennsauken.gov/content/trap-rental-submission-form>. Trap pick-ups will be available two days a week and coordinated by a NJAC Animal Control Officer.

An important reminder if you are managing a colony as part of Pennsauken's Community Cat Program: feral

cats must be contained to your property and colony. If feral cats become a nuisance to your neighbors or neighborhood, animal control does have the authority to trap and remove cats from a neighboring property. It is your responsibility as the colony caregiver to resolve issues with animal control and the local health department.

To report a lost or found animal, or for other animal related questions, please reach out to New Jersey Animal Control at (609) 685-3384, njacoffice@gmail.com, or on Facebook @NJAnimalControl.

Pennsauken Township Committee Recognizes Young Heroes

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Mayor Jessica Rafeh and Pennsauken Township Committee recognized three young heroes who rescued a young girl from a potentially fatal dog attack. Teenagers Billy Jackson, Jamel Alvarez, and Jason Marte were in East Pennsauken on Feb. 14, when they saw nine-year-old Toni Diaz being attacked by a pit bull. Rushing to the girl's aid, they were able to stop the dog and save Diaz's life. These courageous young heroes received a proclamation from Township Committee as a thank you from a grateful Pennsauken community.

"There are everyday heroes who walk among us who appear to be the average human being until a situation presents itself and without hesitation, they leap into action, often selflessly placing their personal safety in jeopardy, all in the name of helping another," read Pennsauken Mayor Jessica Rafeh during the proclamation presentation. "Billy Jackson, Jason Marte and Jamel Alvarez went to extraordinary lengths to rescue a young girl from what could have been a fatal attack. It is thanks to them that Toni Diaz is standing here with us this evening. We honor each of you for the incredible measures you took to save her from further harm."

"It's pretty amazing to see the heroism that these three kids had, making a



Pennsauken Mayor Jessica Rafeh presents a proclamation to Billy Jackson, one of the three young men who rescued nine-year-old Toni Diaz from a dog attack in February. Diaz is seen here with her mother, Erika.

difference in our community at the highest level," added Township Committeeman and Director of Public Safety Marco DiBattista. "These are young men who thought quickly. If it wasn't for them, it could have been much worse."

"I was just glad I was there to help," said Jackson, who was humbled by the recognition.

Several local businesses, including the Dunkin' at Browning Rd., Associated Supermarket, and the Penn Queen

Diner, offered gift cards as tokens of appreciation to the young men. In addition, the Township provided a reminder that Billy, Jamel, and Jason are superheroes in their own right.

"As a community, we commend each of you and we are eternally grateful that Toni Diaz is here with all of us," said Mayor Rafeh. "This is a significant reminder that not all superheroes wear capes!"

Pennsauken Township Launches Community Cat Trap Rental Program

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Pennsauken Township is sponsoring a trap rental program to help residents manage the community cat populations in their neighborhoods.

Traps are available by appointment only, Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., at the Township Municipal Building, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd., Pennsauken, NJ 08110. During the ap-

pointment, residents will receive instruction on the proper use and deployment of the trap. Also at that time, individuals must provide proof of residency in the form of a valid photo ID, as well as a recent household bill.

Residents who participate in this program are responsible for maintaining and operating the trap; humanely capturing community cats on their property; se-

curing appointments for the cats they trap to be spayed/neutered; and before and after care of the animal.

If a Township trap is lost, stolen, or damaged, a fee will be assessed to the resident so that the trap can be replaced.

To set up an appointment to obtain a trap, visit the Township's website at <https://pennsauken.gov/content/trap-rental-submission-form>.

inSports

MPLL Holds Opening Day Ceremonies



Strike! Mayor Jessica Rafeh threw out the first pitch during Merchantville Pennsauken Little League's opening ceremonies.

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inSports Garcia First PHS Student To Earn eSports Scholarship

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Last month, senior Angel Garcia became the first-ever student from Pennsauken High School to sign a national letter of intent to attend college on an eSports scholarship.

"It's always a privilege to do a college signing. This one is the first of its kind for Pennsauken. Angel is going to West Virginia University for eSports," said Athletic Director Billy Snyder. "We're really excited about this. It opens our eyes to the opportunities that exist in eSports."

Garcia was recruited by West Virginia University to play Valorant, a five-on-five character-based tactical shooter. Teams

are broken down into two teams: attackers and defenders, and each has the goal of winning the most rounds. Characters have their own unique abilities to help them in the game. The team who reaches 13 rounds first is declared the winner.

"College coaches watch pro and semi-pro tournaments," explains Angel, who is one of the top collegiate recruits in the world for Valorant. "It takes tens and hundreds of hours to get good at the game. I have about 5,000 hours in the last two years, which is a lot of time."

Garcia, who plays both baseball and hockey for the Indians, will also be a defenseman on the Mountaineer's hockey



PHS senior Angel Garcia, seen here with his family, has signed a letter of intent to attend West Virginia University and play eSports for the Mountaineers.

team. He's applying to the business school but doesn't plan on picking a

major right away.

"My goal for this year is mainly to win the national championship with my college team. Winning worlds in Spain in August, that's our biggest goal," said Angel. "My secondary goal is to go pro and make a living off of [playing]."

For those interested in following a similar path as Angel, he has two pieces of advice: put the time in, but also find a good balance.

"When I got my computer, I was spending 12 to 15 hours a day in my room, not eating well, not working out at all unless I was in season for my sports," explained Garcia. "If you can find a healthy balance between gaming and real life, it's a lot better."

Soccer Kicks Off Intramural Season



Players for the Pennsauken Youth Soccer Club enjoyed their first match of the intramural season on April 1.

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PYAA SPORTS

PYAA Football And Cheer Registration Ongoing

Registration for Pennsauken Youth Athletic Activities (PYAA) fall football and cheerleading is held every Tuesday and Thursday, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., and Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to noon, at the PYAA Field House, 3501 Elm Ave., in Pennsauken.

PYAA will host a free camp from June 27 through July 28. Participants must be signed up by June 21 in order to take part.

All participants must be registered by Thursday, Aug. 4, or they will not be able to participate in the fall season.

Volunteer Coaches Needed

PYAA is looking for volunteer coaches for our upcoming fall football season. Ideal candidates should have some knowledge of the game and undergo a mandatory background check.

A head coach is also needed for the 75-lb. team (ages 5-6). Coaching experience is required. Important qualities include leadership, patience, fairness, as well as open mindedness. Candidates must also be able to complete administrative tasks, including completing league paperwork. Background checks are mandatory.

For more information or to express interest, contact Coach Chris at (609) 332-9266 or Coach Will at (856) 882-9377.

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QUESTION:

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